

# DHCN Drug Benefit Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1  
15 November 2005

## Special points of interest:

- Amlodipine (Norvasc) now non-formulary
- Ramipril (Altace) now non-formulary
- Tamsulosin (Flomax) now non-formulary

## Formulary Changes Affect DeWitt Healthcare Network Beneficiaries

The Department of Defense recently announced the results of the August 2005 Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee meeting. Several decisions were made regarding medications on the Uniform Formulary that affect the patients in the DeWitt Health Care Network.

Significantly, the medications tamsulosin (Flomax), amlodipine (Norvasc) and ramipril (Altace) have been designated as non-formulary (see complete list on page 2). **This means that military treatment facilities within the DeWitt Health Care Network will no longer be carrying these medications.**

The DOD Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee reviewed the formulary status of calcium channel blockers, ace inhibitors and alpha adrenergic blockers used to treat benign prostatic hypertension (BPH). The medications in these classes of drugs were compared for efficacy, side effects and cost. Medications that were considered equally effective in the treatment of a disease but that were significantly more cost effective were designated as formulary item. Those that were not cost effective were designated as non-formulary.

The DeWitt Healthcare network will continue to fill refills for the medications that have been designated as non-

formulary up until the effective date the medication becomes non-formulary. We will not fill any refills after the effective date even if the prescription still has refills remaining. We will not fill any new prescriptions for these medications without documentation of Medical Necessity from a DHCN provider effective **15 November, 2005**. If you currently are seeing a provider outside the DHCN network and need to remain on the non-formulary item, you will need to use the TRICARE mail order or retail network.

If you are currently on one of the medications affected by this ruling, please ensure you discuss the possibility of switching to a formulary medication with your provider prior to the effective date listed beginning on page 2.

The DeWitt Healthcare Network Pharmacies are dedicated to providing quality pharmaceutical services to its beneficiaries. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have questions regarding these changes

For more information about the Uniform Formulary and for copies of Medical Necessity forms, please visit the Tricare Website at [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com)

## **August 2005 Changes to the Uniform Formulary**

### **Medications Designated as Non Formulary**

#### **Phosphodiesterase –5 Inhibitors**

**(effective 12 October 2005)**

Sildenafil (Viagra)

Tadalafil (Cialis)

DHCN does not currently carry any of this class on its formulary.

#### **Topical Antifungals**

**(effective 17 August 2005)**

Econazole, sertaconazole (Ertaczo), sulconazole (Exelderm), ciclopirox (Loprox) and oxiconazole (Oxistat).

Alternatives on the DHCN formulary

Clotrimazole, nystatin, miconazole, ketoconazole,

#### **Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors**

**(effective 15 February 2006)**

Moexipril (Univasc); +HCTZ (Uniretic)

Quinapril (Accupril); +HCTZ (Accuretic)

Perindopril (Aceon)

Ramipril (Altace)

Alternatives available on the DHCN formulary

Captopril (generic)

Lisipril (generic)

Lisinopril+HCTZ (generic)

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**Alpha Adrenergic Blockers for BPH**  
**(effective 15 February 2006)**

Tamsulosin (Flomax)

Alternatives on the DHCN formulary:

Doxazosin (generic)

Terazosin (generic)

Alfuzosin (Uroxatral)

**Dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blocker**  
**(Effective 15 March 2006)**

Amlodipine (Norvasc)

Isradipine immediate and controlled release (DynaCirc)

Nicardipine immediate and sustained release (Cardene)

Alternatives available on the DHCN formulary:

Nifedipine extended release (generic Adalat CC)

Felodipine (generic Plendil)

**Non-dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blocker**

Covera HS

Verlan

Verelan PM

Cardizem LA

Alternatives on the DHCN formulary:

Verapamil immediate release (generic Calan)

Verapamil sustained release (generic Calan SR)

Diltiazem immediate release (generic)

Diltiazem extended release (generic Dilacor)

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**Angiotension Receptor Blocker**

**(effective 17 July 2005)**

Eprosartan (Teveten); +HCTZ (Teveten HCT)

Alternatives on the DHCN formulary

Telmasartan (Micardis); +HCTZ (Micardis HCT)

Irbesartan (Avapro)

Valsartan (Diovan)

**Proton Pump Inhibitors**

**(effective 17 July 2005)**

Esomeprazole (Nexium)

Alternatives on the DHCN formulary:

Omeprazole (generic)

Rabeprazole (Aciphex)

Lansoprazole (Prevacid)